

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

A reader for a chip card, whose main surface ~~comprises~~ has a set of contact pads and visual indications, includes a housing that defines a slot for introducing the card into a functional position in relation to the housing. The reader also has at least one connector for connecting the card and at least one other electronic component. The electric connector and the electronic component are part of a block of components which is located substantially above the set of contacts. The parts of the housing which extend above the main surface of the card are made of a transparent material.